

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 MBFR-03

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R 291730Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3904

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: BRIEFINGS FOR SIGURDUR GIZURARSON

REF: IDF 281655Z AUG 73

EMBASSY HERewith REPEATING REFTel FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

R 281655Z AUG 73

FM COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

TO RUCBSAA/CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

INFO RUDISDF/AMEMB REYKJAVIK IC

C O N F I D E N T I A L

A. YOUR 182209Z DEC 72 (NOTAL)

B. JCS 160129Z DEC 72 (NOTAL)

C. JCS 070046Z AUG 73 (NOTAL)

1. (C) IAW REF A AND AS AUTHORIZED BY REF B AND C, BRIEFINGS WERE CONDUCTED 23 AUGUST FOR SIGURDUR GIZURARSON, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR NEGOTIATIONS. GIZURARSON ARRIVED AT KEFLAVIK AT 1000 IN COMPANY WITH AMBASSADOR IRVING WHO REMAINED WITH HIM FOR ENTIRE PROGRAM.

2. (U) ORIGINATOR MET BRIEFLY WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND MR. GIZURARSON AT THE START OF THE PROCEEDINGS TO OUTLINE THE DAY'S EVENTS.

3. (C) NEXT GIZURARSON, ACCOMPANINED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND ORIGINATOR,

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PROCEEDED TO THE OPCON WHERE A BRIEFING ON SOVIET MARITIME EXPANSION

WAS CONDUCTED. THIS BRIEFING PRESENTED THE SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES AND STRESSED THE POINT THAT THE SOVIET UNION IN

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1956 WAS THE WORLD'S DOMINANT LAND POWER, BUT SINCE THAT TIME HAS RADICALLY ALTERED ITS MARITIME STRATEGY AND EXPANDED ITS NAVY SO THAT IT IS NOW THE PREDOMINANT LAND POWER AND A MAJOR SEA POWER. THE BRIEFING ALSO POINTED TO THE SIZE OF THE SOVIET NORTHERN FLEET WHICH SIGNIFIES A VERY REAL THREAT TO THE NORTHERN FLANK OF NATO AND IN PARTICULAR TO ICELAND BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION. FURTHER, THE BRIEFING STRESSED THE POWER VACUUM THAT COULD RESULT IF ICELAND WAS UNDEFENDED. FOLLOWING THIS PRESENTATION, POSSIBLE SCENARIOS INVOLVING NEUTRALIZATION OF THE AIRFIELD, DESTRUCTION RAIDS, ATTEMPTED

SEIZURE AND COVERT INFILTRATION BY AN AGGRESSOR WERE PRESENTED. INCLUDED WAS RATIONALE ON HOW THE DEFENSE FORCE WOULD REACT TO EACH TYPE OF ATTACK. A COMMAND BRIEF FOLLOWED, SHOWING THE MISSIONS AND TASKS OF THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY EACH ELEMENT THEREOF. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE DEFENSE FORCE ACTS AS A DETERRENT TO ANY POTENTIAL AGGRESSOR AND THAT THE AGGRESSOR WOULD HAVE TO FACE U.S. FORCES IF THEY ATTACK ICELAND AND THAT THE DEFENSE FORCE COULD SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND UNTIL REINFORCED BY FORCES FROM THE UNITED STATES. SUCCESSFUL REINFORCEMENT WOULD PROVIDE ICELAND WITH THE REQUIRED DEFENSE AGAINST ANY FORM OF CONVENTIONAL ATTACK. GIZURARSON WAS SHOWN THE FIGURES OF BASE

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PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS AS OF 31 MARCH 1973. THE BASE PERSONNEL WERE SHOWN IN THREE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES: (1) OPERATIONAL, (2) COMMAND AND CONTROL, AND (3) COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPORT. HE WAS ALSO SHOWN THE NUMBER OF ICELANDERS PRESENTLY EMPLOYED, DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY. ADDITIONALLY, THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICELANDIC ECONOMY, IN TERMS OF GNP, BY THE DEFENSE FORCE WAS SHOWN, AS WAS THE COMPARISON, AGAIN IN TERMS OF GNP, BETWEEN THE EXPENDITURE OF NORWAY FOR DEFENSE AND THE GAIN BY ICELAND BY
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PROVIDING A BASE FOR DEFENSE. THE COMMAND BRIEF WAS FOLLOWED BY THE DAILY WEATHER, INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONAL BRIEFS. ALL BRIEFS WERE PRESENTED AS NATO SECRET, BUT WERE IN FACT NATO CONFIDENTIAL.

4. (U) ORIGINATOR HOSTED AMBASSADOR IRVING, MR. GIZURARSON, AND CAPT MCDONALD, CO NAVSTA, FOR LUNCH AT THE OFFICERS CLUB.
5. (C) FOLLOWING LUNCH, MR. GIZURARSON WAS GIVEN A DRIVING TOUR OF THE BASE IN WHICH HE WAS SHOWN A P3C, F4D, EC121, HC130, HH3E AIRCRAFT, BASE HOUSING AREAS, SCHOOLS, NEW DISPENSARY, PUBLIC WORKS CENTER, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, THE PROPOSED NEW

TERMINAL SITE AND THE CROSSWIND RUNWAY EXTENSION.

6. (C) UPON CONCLUSION OF THE TOUR, MR. GIZURARSON, AMB IRVING

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AND ORIGINATOR HELD PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH IT BECAME APPARENT THAT GIZURARSON IS NOW AWARE THAT ANY REORGANIZATION OF THE DEFENSE FORCE IS A COMPLEX TASK INVOLVING SUBSTANTIAL RISKS TO A BALANCED AND VIABLE DEFENSE. IN ADDITION, HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND STATED THAT THE RESTRICTIONS WERE UNCALLED FOR. GIZURARSON AND AMB IRVING DEPARTED KEFLAVIK AT 1615. HE APPEARED MOST IMPRESSED WITH THE BASE AND LEFT WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASE MISSIONS AND TASKS.

7. (U) THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH U.S. EMBASSY REYKJAVIK.

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